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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL  
US Troop Rotation Through Incirlik Began January 7 -  
Milliyet  
Protocol to Solve the Cyprus Issue Before May - Milliyet  
Prodi: "Turkey Will Rise Like the Sun with EU Accession" -  
Hurriyet  
US Discusses Ways to Punish Syria for Support of Terrorists  
- Hurriyet  
Shiite Leader Urges Turkey to Take Part in Iraq  
Reconstruction - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS  
AKP Violates the Constitution - Cumhuriyet  
Syria: "Israel's Invitation not Sincere" - Cumhuriyet  
Denktas is the Same Old Denktas - Radikal  
Turkish Government: "No Need for New Decree for Incirlik" -  
Radikal  
New TRNC Government to be Presented to Denktas - Yeni Safak  
Prodi: "Cyprus Not A Condition For Turkey's EU Accession  
Talks" - Zaman  
AL-Hakim: "Turkey Should Have A Say in Iraq" - Zaman

BRIEFING

Incirlik: Papers continue to report on the debate about the use of Incirlik base by the United States for troop rotations to and from Iraq. "Milliyet" says that the US asked Turkey for permission to use the base in December. The Turkish government decided there was no need for a new decree, and the rotation of troops began on January 7. Government spokesman and Minister of Justice Cemil Cicek said that there is no need for a new decree to be passed by the parliament. CHP members insist that a new decree was needed for US troops to use the base. In a front-page article, "Cumhuriyet" claims that the government's decision to allow the use of Incirlik for troop rotations violates the Turkish constitution.

Prodi Visit: "Hurriyet" reports that Romano Prodi will be the first EU Commission Chairman to visit Turkey in forty years. "Hurriyet" highlights Prodi's comment that Turkey will "brighten the EU sun" once it becomes a member of the union. Prodi told CNN Turk yesterday that Cyprus is not a pre-condition for Turkey's accession. However, Prodi said that a solution in Cyprus will help Turkey's EU entry. "Hurriyet" columnist Yalcin Dogan notes that on the same day Prodi is coming to Turkey, the court case for Kurdish Activist Leyla Zana will take place. Eight eight members of the European Parliament will be coming to Ankara to attend the hearing. The European parliamentarians may attempt to give Zana the Sakharov Peace Award in the courtroom. They tried to give her the prize in her jail cell last year, but were not permitted to do so.

Al-Hakim Visit: An Iraqi delegation headed by Shiite Leader Abdulaziz Al-Hakim arrived in Ankara yesterday. Al-Hakim said that Turkey should undertake a role in the reconstruction of Iraq. Al-Hakim will have meetings with PM Erdogan and with MFA officials before returning to Iraq.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

- Cyprus
- US-Turkey/Middle East

"How harmonious is this harmony?"

Sami Kohen observed in the mass appeal Milliyet (1/13):  
"Following a series of intensive consultations, it seems the Turkish players on the Cyprus issue have reached a reconciliation. The new government has been formed, and Denktas will remain as the negotiator. It remains to be seen how long this harmony will continue, and whether it will facilitate a solution with the Greek side. . Prime Minister Erdogan is going to have a discussion with Romano Prodi of the EU and, later this month, with President Bush. In both meetings, he will likely underline Turkey's readiness to restart the negotiations and reiterate Ankara's policy to take the Annan Plan as a basis for a settlement. This is the only way for Turkey to avoid the blame for a lack of a Cyprus settlement. This is a long process, and it is important that Denktas also play a convincing role during the negotiations."

"Our foreign policy"

Yilmaz Oztuna noted in the conservative-mass appeal Turkiye (1/13): "The ongoing transit of US troops via Turkey is a significant operation that underlines the strategic relationship between Turkey and the US. The strength of Turkish-US relations is also an important factor for Turkey in its EU vision. It helps to boost Turkey's position with regard to the Middle East. Yet Turkey should not be blind to reality. Turkey's relations with Syria and Iran have significantly improved recently. However, the spring-like atmosphere will not make Washington give up its plans concerning Syria and Iran. The project is part of a 'Pax Americana' from which the US is unlikely to turn back. Turkey should make its policy based on this fact."

EDELMAN